

Abstract

Assessment of mental health in children and adolescent in Ardabil's foster care centers and related factors to their mental health

Background & Aim: Every year, thousands of children admitting in Foster Care Centres, because of several reasons. Most children live in foster care centers, as a results of neglect, physical abuse, parental substance abuse, divorce and social-economic poverty. In addition, living in Foster Care Centres cause a lot of health behavioral problems in the children. With regard to this issue, mental health status of 6-14 years old children living in foster care centres in Ardabil was assessed.

Material & Method: We performed a cross-sectional study with 52 children (29 boy, 23 girl) living in the centers. In this research, the sampling method was census. The required information about children's mental health was obtained by (CSI-4) base on (DSM-IV) questionnaire from guardians who recognized these children on the basis of their behaviors.

Results:

The average age in boy and girls respectively were 11 ± 2.37 and 11.09 ± 2.193 . There was no significant difference between age and subjects sex. The result showed that the 21.2% of subjects don't have behavioral problems and 78.8% have problems in behavior. There was no significant difference between age and sex with behavioral problems. There was significant difference between behavioral problems in ADHD (inattention), phobias, motor tics, Dysthymia, nail-biting and lying with sex so this disorder is prevalent in boys than girls.

Conclusion: On the basis of these findings paying full attention, assessment and further studies on high risk groups of children were recommended.

Key words: Mental Health, Children, Foster Care Centers